

Cooke Hydroelectric Plant, Gate Posts
Cooke Dam Road at the Au Sable River
Oscoda Vicinity
Iosco County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-98-H

HAER
MICH
35-OSCO.V
14-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
Department of the Interior
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

COOKE HYDROELECTRIC PLANT, Gate Posts

HAER No. MI-98-H

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Location: Cooke Dam Road at the Au Sable River
Oscoda Vicinity
Iosco County, Michigan

UTM: 17:295390:4927280
Quad: Sid Town, Mich., 1:24,000

Date of
Construction: 1935?

Engineer: Not applicable

Present Owner: Consumers Power Company
212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201

Present Use: Gate posts

Significance: The Gate Posts mark the entrance to the Cooke Hydropower Plant on
Cooke Dam Road.

Project
Information: This documentation was prepared by Consumers Power Company (CPCo) in conformance with its Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Au Sable River Hydroelectric Projects (July 1995). The plan stipulated the recordation of the entire Cooke Hydroelectric Plant (according to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record) as mitigation for the planned rehabilitation of the plant's concrete spillway. The documentation was completed in 1996 by Hess, Roise and Company of Minneapolis under contract with CPCo. Jeffrey A. Hess served as Principal Investigator and Cynthia de Miranda as Project Historian. Project photography was completed under a subcontract with Hess Roise by Clayton B. Fraser of Loveland, Colorado.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two Gate Posts on Cooke Dam Road mark the entrance to the Cooke Hydroelectric Plant (HAER No. MI-98), located on northeastern Michigan's Au Sable River. The road roughly parallels the river's south bank and links the power plant with Sid Town, a village just over two miles to the southwest. The Gate Posts stand on either side of the road as it approaches the dam from the upstream (southwest) side.

The stout, fieldstone Gate Posts are approximately 5' tall. They display low-pitched, pyramidal concrete caps with remnants of metal light fixtures at the peak. These posts are all that remain of a gated entry to the site.¹

¹ The description is based on a site survey completed by the authors on 27 July 1995.

HISTORY

The Gate Posts do not appear in early photographs of the complex, nor were they included in a 1934 site map showing the locations of structures associated with the plant. They do appear on a 1950 map. A nearby homeowner remembers that in the late 1950's the gate posts were topped with domed lights of a type similar to lamps that illuminated the dam at the time.² None of the lamps remain.

² David Hicks, 1201 Cooke Dam Road, Oscoda, Michigan, telephone interview by Cynthia de Miranda, Hess Roise and Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 8 November 1995.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

ENGINEERING DRAWINGS

Consumers Power Company. "Cooke Hydroelectric Plant, 1934." Drawing TS-X-27120.
Hydroelectric Offices, Consumers Power Company, Cadillac, Michigan.

———. "Cooke Hydro Plant—Sewage Disposal System, 1950." Drawing M28-F1015.
Hydroelectric Offices, Consumers Power Company, Cadillac, Michigan.

INTERVIEW

Hicks, David, 1201 Cooke Dam Road, Oscoda, Michigan. Telephone interview by Cynthia de Miranda, Hess Roise and Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 8 November 1995.